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Remedial design investigation to begin at former Memphis Depot

MEMPHIS, TENN.– The Memphis Depot will begin an environmental investigation this month as part of the Remedial Design phase of the cleanup program to address environmental impacts at Dunn Field and in the Depot community. Fieldwork and monitoring is scheduled to take place between late Sept. 2005 and mid Dec. 2005.

The investigation will provide additional data needed to clearly define the boundaries and extent of impacted soils and groundwater in the Source Areas on Dunn Field and impacted groundwater in the Depot community, as outlined in the Dunn Field Record of Decision.

The information, along with data collected during previous investigations, will be used to design and monitor the cleanup remedy which involves four components. The first component is to use Soil Vapor Extraction to treat soils on Dunn Field. The second is injecting Zero-Valent Iron into the groundwater where high concentrations of compounds are present on Dunn Field. Component three is to place Zero-Valent Iron in the ground as a Permeable Reactive Barrier to treat the off-site groundwater plume. The fourth component is treating lower-concentration areas using monitored natural attenuation.

The Depot's environmental contractors will take samples at up to 260 sampling points in a 40-by-40-foot grid pattern overlaying the Dunn Field Source Areas using state-of-the-art technology called a Membrane Interface Probe. The results will be used to design an SVE program that will effectively treat soil conditions in the Source Area.

In addition to the Membrane Interface Probe study, eight to 10 groundwater monitoring wells will be installed on Dunn Field. The data gathered from these wells will better define the boundaries for the Zero-Valent Iron treatment areas and provide locations for long-term monitoring to ensure the remedy works effectively and meets cleanup objectives.

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Another five wells and six soil borings will be installed in the Depot community to provide additional information about the groundwater aquifer west of Dunn Field in order to effectively design, position, construct and monitor the Permeable Reactive Barrier.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation have reviewed and approved the work plan for the project, which includes a Site Health and Safety Plan to ensure the procedures are protective of human health and environment. All work will be conducted in accordance with the standards established by the Office of Safety and Health Administration. The safety plan includes air monitoring, dust control measures, personal protective equipment for workers, and cleaning protocols for equipment. Safety fencing at Dunn Field and flagging off Depot will restrict public access to the investigation sites.

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